

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
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LEBANON/
CIVIL CONFLICT

JENNINGS: Overseas today, a number of developments having to do with the Middle East--there is still a cease-fire between Palestinians in Northern Lebanon. In Beirut, several shells landed in the Marine compound today; one Marine was slightly wounded. It is now more than a month since 239 Americans lost their lives in Beirut. The Reagan administration has gone on saying it couldn't have happened without at least Syrian cooperation. ABC's John McWethy reports that at the Pentagon, they think the cooperation was very accurate.

MCWETHY: U.S. intelligence sources say some two dozen Iranian radicals, those who carried out the terrorist bomb blasts against American Marines last month, were actually trained by an arm of the Syrian government, not its military but its secret police. The training took place in both Lebanon and Syria; the radicals were provided with special instruction in high explosives and were given both the trucks and the dynamite in three attacks against American, French, and Israeli military headquarters in Lebanon. Though there is yet no hard evidence indicating that Syria's President Assad actually knew about the help his government was providing the terrorists, American analysts say they believe he must have known. After the terrorist attacks, both Israel and France retaliated with air strikes aimed at Palestinians and Iranians in Lebanon. Though U.S. officials, including President Reagan, talked as though American forces might also retaliate, they never did. U.S. government sources now say that the Reagan administration will not seek revenge for the terrorist bomb blasts that killed 239 American servicemen last month, but word has been passed to Syria that any future terrorist acts directed at Americans will draw an immediate military response from the U.S. And the targets, though located in Lebanon, will be Syrian. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.